

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): An articulated joint for a post-operative knee brace or for articular walkers in general, ~~of the type designed to form~~ comprising: an articulated connection between a pair of uprights each of which can be applied to two sectors of the a body joint to be treated, ~~characterised in that~~ and a power-driving means for the angular movement of one upright with respect to the other ~~are, the power-driving means being fitted at the a~~ hinge point connecting the two uprights.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~[[An]] articulated joint according to the foregoing claim characterised in that~~ of claim 1, wherein the power-driving means ~~consist~~ comprises of a shaped pinion (16) which is part of a unit kinematically connected to an electrical type motor (17) and to a reduction gear unit (17').

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~[[An]] articulated joint to the foregoing claim characterised in that~~ of claim 2, wherein the pinion (16) is part of and integral with a toothed pulley (18) which engages with a worm screw (19) driven by ~~the a~~ shaft of the motor (17).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~[[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that~~ of claim 3, wherein the worm screw (19) is positioned at a tangent with respect to the pulley (18) and both the screw and the pulley are enclosed in a container (20) which has approximately the same surface extension as the joint discs (13,14) over which it is positioned.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~[[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that~~ of claim 2 wherein the pinion (16), which presents a longitudinally shaped conformation, for example hexagonal, triangular, polygonal, toothed or similar, is inserted in an appropriate corresponding housing (21) in the pin (15) of the joint, and more specifically in a housing of the pin integral with one of the two uprights.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The~~ [[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that of claim 4, wherein the motor (17) and the drive and reduction unit enclosed in the container (20) are fitted on one of the uprights (11), and the pinion (16) is in turn shaped so as to penetrate ~~the~~ a corresponding female hole (21) of the pin (15), which is therefore integral with the other upright (12).

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~The~~ [[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that of claim 6, wherein the drive unit consisting of the motor [[(17)]] and the container [[(20)]] holding the kinematic movement transmission organs, is fitted on a support plate [[(22)]] equipped on the opposite side with protruding centering teeth [[(23)]].

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The~~ [[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that of claim 7, wherein the teeth [[(23)]] are shaped and arranged so they can be inserted in corresponding housings [[(24)]] in the upright [[(11)]].

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~The~~ [[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that of claim 7, wherein a locking clip [[(25)]] with a substantially "C" shaped cross-section, or another similar shape, clamps the plate [[(22)]] on the respective upright [[(11)]].

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The~~ [[An]] articulated joint according to any of the foregoing claims characterised in that of claim 2, wherein the motor [[(17)]] is connected by appropriate cabling [[(26)]] to a power takeoff which can be represented by a storage battery or a network source, and if necessary to a PLC control unit or the like, which acts by keyboard commands.

Claim 11 (new): The articulated joint of claim 7, wherein the is connected by appropriate cabling to a power takeoff which can be represented by a storage battery or a network source, and if necessary to a PLC control unit or the like, which acts by keyboard commands.

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Claim 12 (new): The articulated joint of claim 3, wherein the motor is connected by appropriate cabling to a power takeoff which can be represented by a storage battery or a network source, and if necessary to a PLC control unit or the like, which acts by keyboard commands.

Claim 13 (new): The articulated joint of claim 3 wherein the pinion, which presents a longitudinally shaped conformation, for example hexagonal, triangular, polygonal, toothed or similar, is inserted in an appropriate corresponding housing in the pin of the joint, and more specifically in a housing of the pin integral with one of the two uprights.

Claim 14 (new): The articulated joint of claim 8, wherein a locking clip with a substantially "C" shaped cross-section, or another similar shape, clamps the plate on the respective upright.

Claim 15 (new): The articulated joint of claim 2, wherein the drive unit consisting of the motor and the container holding the kinematic movement transmission organs, is fitted on a support plate equipped on the opposite side with protruding centering teeth.